



NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2020

Sheridan ~ Johnson County FSA Office

1949 Sugarland Drive, Ste 126
Sheridan, WY 82801

(307) 672-5820 Ext. 2
(307) 683-4202
Fax: 866-574-1670

Toll Free Number:
1-866-262-4396

Johnson County Office Day:

First **Wednesday** of each month.

Buffalo USDA Service Center
500 Lott St., Unit A
Buffalo, WY 82834
(307) 684-2526 Ext. 3

FSA Office Personnel:

Linda Benzel, CED
Staci L. Steiner, PT
Justine Scheeler, PT

County Committee Members:

Raymon Turk, Chairman
John Buyok, Vice Chairman
Thad Stoltz, Regular Member
Ray Daly, Regular Member
Gerry Miller, Regular Member

Farm Loan Manager:

Rob Weppner
307-682-8843 ext. 2
rob.weppner@usda.gov

Dates to Remember:

February 17th -Office Closed
President's Day

March 15th – ARC/PLC
Signup Deadline

April 1st – NAP Spring
planted crop deadline

Next COC Meeting:

TBD



A Minute With Linda...

As a reminder, we continue to have our office day in Buffalo the 1st Wednesday of every month. Please let us know if you need forms, etc. scanned to the Buffalo or Kaycee PR Conservation office for you to stop by and sign. Allison, Kassie and Anita have been very accommodating in helping us and the producers with scanning documents back and forth. Thank you, gals, for all your help over the years!

Your Sheridan-Johnson County committee is there to represent you and your neighbors. If you need to verify the LAA Area for your operation(s), please give us a call and we will provide you with your committee member contact information.

We have received several inches of snow at the start of February. Snotel Reports are available weekly at <https://snotel.org/state/wyoming/>. With calving and lambing season approaching, please keep in mind to give us a call if you have an extreme weather event this spring, *not normal for Wyoming*. Our hope is your lambing and calving season is successful and without any major disaster events.

The articles below include information on programs, eligibility, and deadline dates. Please give Staci, Justine or me a call if you with any questions. Our goal is to provide quality service to our hard-working farmers and ranchers.

Best Regards, *Linda Benzel, CED*

Report Changes in the Intended use of a Crop: Grain to Hay – Haying to Grazing – Silage to Hay

Conditions may have changed since you planted and certified the intended use of your crop. Plans may have changed due to lack of precipitation, heat and high winds, lack of irrigation water or because of storm damage such as hail.

If your plans have changed and you're going to graze instead of hay your crop or cut for hay or silage instead of harvesting for grain, then you must report the change of intended use to the Sheridan~Johnson County FSA Office. Failure to timely report your decision to change the use of crops can result in the loss of Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) benefits. Producers can report the change in intended use of a crop up until the final acreage reporting deadline.

Crops with NAP coverage that will not be harvested must be inspected by an FSA Loss Adjuster in order to maintain NAP eligibility. Destruction of the crop or allowing deterioration of the crop without an inspection can result in the loss of program eligibility.

Failure to timely report these changes can result in the loss of NAP benefits. All producers considering a change of intended use, destruction of the crop prior to the end of the crop year, or those who may be unsure of their certification should contact the Sheridan~Johnson County FSA office at 307-683-4202 for more information.

Update Your Records

FSA is cleaning up our producer record database. If you have any unreported changes of address, zip code, phone number, email address, bank account or an incorrect name or business name on file they need to be reported to our office.

Changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase, need to be reported to our office as well.

Producers participating in FSA and NRCS programs are required to timely report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and update their CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan.

If you have any updates or corrections, please call (307) 683-4202 to update your records.

USDA Safety Net Program Enrollment for 2019 and 2020

Agricultural producers now can enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs – two U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) safety net programs – for the 2019 and 2020 crop year.

ARC provides income support payments on historical base acres when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guaranteed level. PLC provides income support payments on historical base acres when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its reference price. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized and updated both programs.

Signup for the 2019 crop year closes March 15, 2020, while signup for the 2020 crop year closes June 30, 2020. Producers who have not yet enrolled for 2019 can enroll for both 2019 and 2020 during the same visit to an FSA county office.

ARC and PLC have options for the farm operator who is actively farming the land as well as the owner of the land. Farm owners also have a one-time opportunity to update PLC payment yields beginning with crop year 2020. If the farm owner and producer visit the FSA county office together, FSA can also update yield information during that visit.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

To be effective for the current Fiscal Year (FY), farm combinations and farm divisions must be requested by **August 1 of the FY** for farms subject to the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. A reconstitution is considered to be requested when all:

- of the required signatures are on FSA-155
- other applicable documentation, such as proof of ownership, is submitted.

Total Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and non-ARC/PLC farms may be reconstituted at any time. The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method, the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Livestock Losses

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold.

For disease losses, FSA county committees can accept veterinarian certifications that livestock deaths were directly related to adverse weather and unpreventable through good animal husbandry and management.

For 2020 livestock losses, eligible livestock owners must file a notice *within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent*.

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 2% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 400 pounds) = 4.3%. Sheep (Ewes & Rams) =7.2% and Lambs =15.9%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under “normal” conditions. (Set by Wyoming FSA State Committee)

In addition to filing a notice of loss, producers must also submit an application for payment by March 1, 2021.

Additional Information about LIP is available at your local FSA office or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov.



USDA Acreage Reporting Deadline for Perennial Forage Changes to July 15

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has established a new acreage reporting deadline for perennial forage for 2019 and subsequent years. Previously set in the fall, the new deadline is Wednesday, July 15, 2020 for all states, except for Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

Timely and accurate acreage reports for all crops and land uses, including prevented planting or failed acreage, are the foundation for many FSA program benefits, including disaster programs for livestock owners. Producers must report their acreage to maintain program eligibility.

Producers who have coverage for perennial forage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must report their crop acreage by the earlier of any of the following:

- the established acreage reporting date (July 15)
 - 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported
- the established normal harvest date for the end of the coverage period.

In order to maintain program eligibility and benefits, producers must timely file acreage reports. Failure to file an acreage report by the crop acreage reporting deadline *may result in ineligibility for future program benefits*. FSA will not accept acreage reports provided more than a year after the acreage reporting deadline.

We will begin setting up appointments in Sheridan, Buffalo and Kaycee to start May 19, 2020.

USDA Farm Service Agency
Sheridan ~ Johnson Counties Office
1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 126
Sheridan, WY 82801-5720

Important FSA Dates and Deadlines

- ◆ February 17, 2020 – President's Day – Office CLOSED
- ◆ March 8, 2020 – Daylight Savings – Set Clocks AHEAD
- ◆ March 15, 2020 – 2019 ARC/PLC Signup Deadline
- ◆ March 16, 2020 – 2020 NAP HEMP coverage Deadline
- ◆ April 1, 2020 – 2020 Spring NAP crop coverage Deadline



The Sheridan FSA Office is open Monday through Friday from 8am to 4:30pm, closed from noon to 1pm

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Linda Benzel at 307-683-4202 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).